(b) whether it is also a fact that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has recommended for its amendment;

(c) whether the Minister has also assured the Rajya Sabha that the Bill would be introduced at the earliest, if so, what follow up action has been taken by the Ministry;

(d) by when this Bill would be introduced in the Parliament; and

(e) whether the Ministry has any positive considerations towards the demands of the Sikh Minority Community?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) In reply to Starred Question No.141 answered on 10.3.2008, this House was informed that the issue of registration of marriage under Anand Marriage Act will be expedited. Since this requires consultation with the State Governments and other stakeholders, it will take some more time before a final decision is taken in the matter.

Overhauling of JUSTICE delivery system

370. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared several radical ideas to overhaul the justice delivery system in the country including appointment of thousands of new judges, bringing down the pendency of cases from 15 years to 3 years and operating courts in three shifts;

(b) if so, the status thereof;

(c) whether Government also proposes to establish a National Arrears Grid to ascertain the exact number of cases in every court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) to (d) The Government has taken up the work of preparing a roadmap for judicial reforms in the country which aims, *inter-alia,* at reducing pendency in the courts. In this context, the Government organized a "National Consultation for strengthening the judiciary towards reducing pendency and delays" on 24th-25th October, 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. In the National Consultation, it was, *inter-alia,* resolved that the efforts will be made by all concerned to reduce the time taken for disposal of cases from 15 years to 3 years and to work together to implement the various steps including formation of a National Arrears Grid, required to ensure provision of expeditious, quality and inclusive justice. These are under consideration of the Government.

Benches of Supreme Court

371. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recently recommended setting up of four zonal benches and a permanent Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the creation of zonal benches has been a long pending demand particularly from the Southern States; and

(d) if so, by when the zonal benches of Supreme Court are likely to be created and made functional?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) The Law Commission of India in its 229th Report, has recommended that :

(i) A Constitution Bench be set up at Delhi to deal with constitutional and other allied issues.

(ii) Four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region/zone at Delhi, the Southern region/zone at Chennai/Hyderabad, the Eastern region/zone at Kolkata and the Western region/zone at Mumbai to deal with all appellate work arising out of the orders/judgments of the High Courts of the particular region.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The recommendations are being examined by the Government.

Reduction in court fee

†372.SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Law Commission of India has advised the States to reduce court fee;

(b) whether the Commission has made recommendation to bring comprehensive uniformity in the criteria of court fee apart from fixing a maximum limit for fee in the country in its recent report; and

(c) if so, Governmentus reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission of India in its 220th Report on "Need to fix Maximum Chargeable Court-fee in Subordinate Civil Courts" had recommended "....there should be some measure of uniformity in the scales of court-fee. There is no justification for any differential treatment of different suitors. The Government, therefore, seriously consider the feasibility of a fixed maximum chargeable court-fee".

(c) The Parliamentary Standing Committee has, however, while deliberating upon the Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 had raised the issue of differential fees for commercial and corporate cases in the

† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.